

NFAC #4959-79
18 September 1979

MEMORANDUM FOR: CIA Participants in DCI Dinner

FROM : National Intelligence Officer for Political Economy

SUBJECT : Background Materials on "Consequences of Urbanization in LDCs"

1. In preparation for the DCI dinner Thursday, 20 September, I called Joan Nelson, the designated discussion leader, to elicit some indication of the thrust of her presentation. She offered two alternatives:

- ° A treatment of urbanization as a social-political phenomenon--part of the overall process of modernization--and its impact on urban unrest.
- ° Urbanization understood as rapid growth of cities and redistribution of population--rural to urban and urban to urban--and the technical-physical problems it creates.

Joan feels that a sharp distinction should be drawn between the two topics. She can handle either but not both in the few introductory minutes allotted her.

2. I strongly endorsed her preference to concentrate on the first of these topics. It's the more interesting issue and she's done some pioneering work in this area. To lubricate the dialogue, I thought it would be useful to circulate two of her writings beforehand:

- ° A paper on the urban poor written almost ten years ago which summarizes her main thesis--that the urban poor are not a source of political instability; and
- ° The Introduction to her new book on the same subject which elaborates the thesis.

3. I have a copy of the new book and you are welcome to skim it if you have time.



STAT

*Need source of instability be
the urban in-migrants themselves?*

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